

AMENDED CLAIMS

[submitted to the International Office on July 18, 2005 (07/18/2005):

original claims 1-21 are replaced by amended claims 1-19]

(New) Claims:

1. Snap fastening suitable for mounting fittings, such as socket wrench latches, swivel lever latches (10), hinge parts (80, 82), handles, in openings (12, 14) in a thin wall (16, 50), comprising a head part (24) which is to be arranged on one, outer side (18) of the thin wall (16) and which overlaps the outer rim (20) of the opening, and a body part (26, 28, 30, 32) which proceeds from the head part (24) and projects through the opening in the mounted position, and holding elements (36) which project from the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and are flexible in direction of its outer surface against spring force, the free end of these holding elements (36) being provided with an inclined surface (38) for supporting the body part without play on the rim or edge (40) of the opening of the other, inner side (42) of the thin wall (16), wherein the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and holding element (36) and the spring generating the spring force are separate parts, characterized in that the holding elements are levers (436) which are arranged at a distance from the thin wall so as to be rotatable around an axis extending perpendicular to the plane of the thin wall.

2. Snap fastening suitable for mounting fittings, such as socket wrench latches, swivel lever latches (10), hinge parts (80, 82), handles, in openings (12, 14) in a thin wall (16, 50), comprising a head part (24) which is to be arranged on one, outer side (18) of the thin wall (16) and which overlaps the outer rim (20) of the opening, and a body part (26, 28, 30, 32) which proceeds from the head part (24) and projects through the opening in the mounted position, and holding elements (36) which project from the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and are flexible in direction of its outer surface against spring force, the free end of these holding elements (36) being provided with an inclined surface (38) for supporting the body part without play on the rim or edge (40) of the opening of the other, inner side (42) of the thin wall (16), wherein the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and holding element (36) and the spring

generating the spring force are separate parts, characterized in that the holding elements (36, 336) are slides (56) which are arranged so as to be displaceable in a cylinder (54) that is parallel to the plane of the thin wall and is rectangular in cross section, and in that the slides (56) are held against pressure spring force by a hook arrangement locking between the slides (56) or in the cylinder.

3. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 2, characterized in that when the two diametrically oppositely arranged holding elements are loaded to different extents, such as when a sash (52) is used, the holding element (36) upon which the smaller load is exerted is made of flexible plastic such as polyamide and the other holding element (136), upon which the greater load is exerted, is made of rigid material such as metal.

4. Snap fastening suitable for mounting fittings, such as socket wrench latches, swivel lever latches (10), hinge parts (80, 82), handles, in openings (12, 14) in a thin wall (16, 50), comprising a head part (24) which is to be arranged on one, outer side (18) of the thin wall (16) and which overlaps the outer rim (20) of the opening, and a body part (26, 28, 30, 32) which proceeds from the head part (24) and projects through the opening in the mounted position, and holding elements (36) which project from the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and are flexible in direction of its outer surface against spring force, the free end of these holding elements (36) being provided with an inclined surface (38) for supporting the body part without play on the rim or edge (40) of the opening of the other, inner side (42) of the thin wall (16), wherein the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and holding element (36) and the spring generating the spring force are separate parts, characterized in that the holding elements (336) are slides comprising a rigid material such as metal which are arranged so as to be displaceable in a cylinder which is parallel to the plane of the thin wall and is rectangular in cross section and are held against pressure spring force (324) by a pin arrangement (92) that is arranged between the slides.

5. Snap fastening according to claim 4, characterized in that the pin arrangement comprises screws (27) that can be screwed (37) into the head part (382, Figs. 31A, B, C).

6. Snap fastening according to claim 5, characterized in that the screws (27) determine the extent of the movement of the holding elements (1136, 29).

7. Snap fastening according to claim 2, 3 or 4, characterized in that the cylinder (54) has a partial dividing wall (358) or undercut or opening edge at which slides (36, 336, 536, 636) are supported axially by a shoulder or hook.

8. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the fitting is a swivel lever latch or a folding lever latch (10) for fastening in an elongated opening (12, 17, 14) or in two shorter rectangular openings (12, 14), wherein one opening (12) receives a lever bearing (66) and the other opening (14) receives a lever stop (170, 70), characterized in that at least one of the openings (12, 14) also serves to receive at least one body part (28, 128, 32) with holding element according to one of the preceding claims 1 to 7.

9. Snap fastening according to claim 8, wherein the swivel lever latch or folding lever latch has a dish (24) that is suitable for receiving the actuating lever (22) in a lockable manner, characterized in that the dish (24) forms the head part of one or two body parts with holding elements in the area of the lever bearing such as a drive shaft (66).

10. Snap fastening according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the swivel lever latch or folding lever latch (10) has a dish (24) for receiving the actuating lever (22) in a lockable manner, characterized in that the dish (24) forms the surface (74, 174) behind which the cam of a lever stop (70, 170) engages on the one hand and forms the head part of a body part with holding elements in the area of the lever stop on the other hand.

11. Snap fastening according to claim 8, 9 or 10, characterized in that the holding elements are formed by slides (56) which are held so as to be displaceable and whose movement axis lies perpendicular to the longitudinal extension of the dish.

12. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the fitting is a hinge part (80, 82).

13. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the head part has an offset (117) in the region of the holding element (2836) for receiving edge bulges (119).

14. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that two or more holding elements (3136) are arranged successively.

15. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and head part (24) are injection molded so as to form one piece.

16. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that the body part and head part are two parts which are screwed (Figs. 31A, B, C; Figs. 89A, B, C), welded (Figs. 72A, 72B, 72C), or snapped together.

17. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that supporting elements (46, 48, 94, 96) are provided for supporting the holding elements (36) after the fitting is mounted in the thin wall (16), these supporting elements (46, 48, 94, 96) being held or carried by the body part (26, 28, 30, 32).

18. Snap fastening according to one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that two holding elements (36) which are arranged diametrically opposite from one another are supported by spring arrangements such as spiral springs (44).

19. Snap fastening suitable for mounting fittings, such as socket wrench latches, swivel lever latches (10), hinge parts (80, 82), handles, in openings (12, 14) in a thin wall (16, 50), comprising a head part (24) which is to be arranged on one, outer side (18) of the thin wall (16) and which overlaps the outer rim (20) of the opening, and a body part (26, 28, 30, 32) which proceeds from the head part (24) and projects through the opening in the mounted position, and holding elements (36) which project from the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and are flexible in direction of its outer surface against spring force, the free end of these holding elements (36) being provided with an inclined surface (38) for supporting the body part without play on the rim or edge (40) of the opening of the other, inner side (42) of the thin wall (16), wherein the body part (26, 28, 30, 32) and holding element (36) and the spring generating the spring force are separate parts, characterized in that the holding elements (36) are levers (236) which are arranged at a distance (A) from the thin wall (16) so as to be rotatable around an axis (60) extending parallel to the plane of the thin wall (16).